

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the Suspension)

of the Educator Certificate of)

Lisa C. Richards)

Certificate 180569)

**ORDER OF SUSPENSION
(BREACH OF CONTRACT)**

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on September 13, 2005. On June 14, 2005, the Department of Education (Department) sent Lisa C. Richards a notice of her right to a due process hearing regarding the possible suspension of her South Carolina educator certificate by regular and certified mail, return receipt requested, delivery restricted to addressee. Ms. Richards received the notice, as evidenced by the signed postal receipt bearing her signature. Ms. Richards did not request a hearing during the period specified by the notice letter. After considering the information presented, the State Board voted to suspend Ms. Richard's certificate for one year.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Ms. Richards holds a valid certificate with over six years experience. Ms. Richards held a contract for the 2004-05 school year with the Greenville County School District, and was assigned as a fifth grade teacher to Mauldin Elementary School. On May 3, 2005, Ms. Richards notified her Principal that her last day of employment would be May 6, 2005. On May 4, 2005, the District notified Ms. Richards that her resignation was not in compliance with District policy. Ms. Richards did not return to work, and on May 24, 2005, the District Board of Trustees voted to request suspension of Ms. Richard's certificate as a result of her breach of contract.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

The State Board may suspend the certificate of any person for unprofessional conduct. S.C. Code Ann. §§ 59-25-150 and 160 (2004). Breach of contract is deemed to be unprofessional conduct. S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2004); 24 S.C. Code Regs. 43-58 (1992). The State Board finds that the information presented supports its determination that just cause exists to suspend Ms. Richard's certificate 180569 for a period of one year, from September 14, 2005, through September 13, 2006. Should Ms. Richards wish to have her certificate reinstated at the end of the suspension period, she may make a written request for reinstatement to the Office of Teacher Certification.

South Carolina State Board of Education

By: /S/ Paul M. Forrester

Paul M. Forrester, Chair

Columbia, South Carolina

September 13, 2005